

Morning Lines: January 28

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Good Morning Minister,

We received the following questions this morning:

1. **Concerns about Violent Truckers Protest**
2. **Nova Scotia**

We continue to track the following stories:

IMVE - Truckers protest

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-mps-warned-that-trucker-convoy-protesters-may-target-their-homes/>

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/politics/article-ottawa-police-prepare-for-truck-protest-against-federal-vaccination/>

Background

- * Hundreds of truckers and their supporters are making their way from B.C. to Ottawa for a planned protest outside Parliament on Saturday.
- * The Globe and Mail article notes that the convoy could arrive as early as Thursday. Counterprotesters are expected to join the multi-day demonstrations.
- * Ottawa law enforcement are preparing contingency plans in case of violence.
- * Ottawa Police Chief said that the main convoy, the "Freedom Convoy" (a coalition of what Global News has described as far-right and white nationalist groups), have been primarily peaceful, though the social media activity appears threatening and continues to be monitored.
- * The Prime Minister said there was a "small fringe minority who are on the way to Ottawa who are holding unacceptable views."
- * Sergeant-at-Arms Patrick McDonnell has sent a security alert to Members of Parliament warning that protestors have been inquiring online about members' addresses, and urged MPs who may be confronted with demonstrations to not get involved, and go somewhere safe.

Lines

- * Our government will always support the right to peaceful protest in Canada – but we will always condemn violence and threats.
- * We are deeply concerned with the rise of ideologically-motivated violent extremism, and there is no place Canada for it.
- * As the Prime Minister's National Security Advisor recently said: ideologically motivated violent extremism is "our most deadly extremist threat."

- * The Parliamentary Protective Service and local police will respond to any issues as necessary, and our national law enforcement and security agencies are continuously monitoring potential threats.

Mass Casualty Commission – Costs

Background

- * The inquiry examining the April 2020 killings of 22 people in rural Nova Scotia has cost about \$13 million before public hearings have started.
- * The provincial and federal governments are sharing the cost of the Mass Casualty Commission that has a mandate to examine what happened when a gunman disguised as a Mountie attacked neighbours, acquaintances and strangers, as well as causes and context leading up to the shootings and arson.
- * Public disappointment that it took 12 hours after the first 911 call for the RCMP to announce their suspect was driving a mock cruiser.
- * So far, the Nova Scotia government has paid \$5.9 million for the commission and the federal government has spent 7.1 million

Lines

- * The Nova Scotia tragedy devastated families, friends and communities, and left many with unanswered questions.
- * As the Mass Casualty Commission's engagement with Nova Scotians continues, our thoughts continue to be with those effected by the senseless acts of violence.
- * Violence has no place in Canada. We will continue to honour the requests from families and community members who called for a public inquiry, to prevent such tragedies in the future.
- * All Canadians can have confidence that this inquiry will be undertaken in a thorough, impartial and compassionate manner.

Islamophobia

<https://www.infomedia.gc.ca/ps-sp/en/2022/01/27/242557122>

Background

- * On the fifth anniversary of the Quebec City Mosque (the Islamic Cultural Centre) shooting, A CBC articles details the community's calls for more government action to fight Islamophobia, and tighten gun control laws.
- * Members of the Centre culturel islamique de Québec (CCIQ) penned an open letter expressing their frustration with the lack of action on gun control since the Quebec City Mosque attack.
- * The twenty signatories represent the PolySeSouvient, l'Association des Étudiants de Polytechnique, la Coalition pour le contrôle des armes, Ensemble pour Thomas et les Familles liées à Dawson.
- * The letter called on the federal government to "to stop efforts to absolve the federal government of responsibility for the handgun issue."
- * Another letter addressed to the Quebec government calls on Premier Legault to repeal aspects of Bill 21.

Lines

- * Aujourd'hui, la veille de la Journée nationale de commémoration de l'attentat à la mosquée de Québec et d'action contre l'islamophobie, nous renouvelons notre engagement à condamner l'islamophobie et la violence motivée par la haine partout au Canada.
- * Notre gouvernement n'a aucune tolérance pour la haine, le racisme et la violence, et nous sommes déterminés à faire en sorte que toutes les communautés se sentent en sécurité dans notre pays.

- * Nous sommes profondément préoccupés par la montée de l'islamophobie et des crimes motivés par la haine au Canada, c'est pourquoi nous avons mis en œuvre la Stratégie canadienne de lutte contre le racisme et créé le Secrétariat fédéral de lutte contre le racisme.
- * Nous continuerons de consulter les leaders communautaires et politiques pour lutter contre l'islamophobie au Canada, par le biais d'initiatives telles que notre sommet contre l'islamophobie.
- * Il nous incombe à tous de lutter contre le racisme et la violence partout où ils existent, afin de créer un pays sûr et accueillant pour tous.

Emerson Incident – Human Trafficking

<https://www.infomedia.gc.ca/ps-sp/en/2022/01/28/242565336>

Background

- * The four victims found dead near the border in Emerson have been confirmed.
- * The bodies of Baldevbhai Patel, 39; his wife, Vaishaliben Jagdishkumar Patel, 37; their daughter, Vihangi Jagdishkumar Patel, 11; and three-year-old son, Dharmik Jagdishkumar Patel were found by RCMP near Emerson on January 19.
- * Steve Shand of Florida was arrested and charged with transporting or attempting to transport illegal aliens. He will appear before a judge in Minnesota today for a detention and preliminary hearing. He is believed to be involved in a larger human smuggling operation.
- * Five other Indian nationals were arrested, and are believed to be part of the same group as the four victims.

Lines

- * We are shocked and saddened by the tragic deaths of four people attempting to cross the Canada-US border, near Emerson, Manitoba.
- * We extend our most heartfelt condolences to their loved ones, and our thoughts are with them at this difficult time.
- * We know that unfortunately where there are vulnerable people, there are others who are willing to exploit them for a profit.
- * Our government remains committed to combating human smuggling, protecting vulnerable persons, and maintaining our border integrity.

If pressed – investigation

- * The RCMP continue to investigate, in cooperation with the Canada Border Services Agency and our American counterparts from US Customs and Border Protection.
- * The RCMP will share new information as it becomes available.

Thanks!

Andie Habert

Issues Manager | Gestion des enjeux

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